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NOTE: the following article contains material extracted from public documents --
don't flame me for "violating national security!!!" It discusses the "Aurora" spy plane, military "black" budgets, and even includes neutron beam weapons!!

This is a follow-up to previous messages I had posted on the subject of the "Aurora" hypersonic spy plane and the Dept. of Defense's "black" budget. In an earlier posting I mentioned that Item #15 in the Defense Critical Technologies Plan was for "pulsed power". This was based on a one-page summary in Aviation Week & Space Technology magazine, p. 57, May 20, 1991. I had assumed that "pulsed power" referred to the pulsating engines of "Aurora" I tried to get the document in question, for 1992, as mentioned in the article. I guess the local document depository has a limited budget, because they didn't have it. However, I did read the Defense Critical Technologies Plan for fiscal year '91 (DOD document # AD-A219 300). Item #15 (Pulsed Power) describes high-energy weapons including rail guns (electromagnetic launchers in DOD terminology) and neutral particle beams (which I had thought were impossible). But back to "Aurora" - Item #14 in the Defense Critical Technologies Plan describes air-breathing propulsion systems and includes this remark on page A-154 : "Hypersonic aircraft have the potential to enhance military capability to make high-speed intercepts and timely reconnaissance. Hypersonic air-breathing technology is the second highest priority effort in this area."

To get more of a feel for how "black" programs operate, I read several reports prepared by the House Armed Services Committee about defense procurement, the Navy's cancelled A-12 Stealth fighter (the drawing of it looks like a two-man flying pizza slice), and the B-2 Stealth fighter (which indicated that key members of Congress knew a good deal and appear to have supported it because subcontracts were given in 46 states and affected 383 Congressional districts). Unfortunately a lot of the testimony had phrases like "we can't discuss that in open session, we'll have to talk about it in the vault at the top of the Capitol" particularly when discussing how the B-2 wasn't as stealthy as it was supposed to be. Reading the budget documents shows me that the aerospace press may be mistaken in identifying "Aurora" as "Senior Citizen". According to the '93 budget, "Senior Citizen" is listed as a tactical aircraft (presumably the TR-3A) while another project (under intelligence funding) describes "Senior Year" operations. So, "Aurora" may actually be "Senior Year"

Without further adieu, here's a list of really secret Defense research & development programs taken from the National Defense Authorization Act for

Fiscal Year 1993 (House of Representatives Report 102-527). I bet you could have all sorts of fun asking military types what these things are at a cocktail party... Note: code names such as "Senior Citizen" are given in quotes.

Agency	Description	Program element #
	****** Technology base programs ******	
Army	"Tractor Field"	0602123A
Army	electronic warfare technology	0602270A
	****** Strategic programs ******	
Army	special programs	0102814A
Army	classified program	0102830A
Army	classified program	0102831A
Army	world-wide military communications & control system	0303152A
Air Force	"Olympic"	0603105F
Air Force	special evaluation program	0603110F
Air Force	"Meridian"	0603115F
Air Force	advanced strategic programs	0101815F
Air Force	classified program	0102830F
Air Force	classified program	0102831F
Air Force	special applications programs	0305124F
Air Force	special analysis activities	0305892F
	****** Tactical programs ******	
Army	nuclear munitions - advanced development	0603604A
Army	armament enhancement initiative	0603639A
Army	electronic warfare development	0604270A
Army	classified program - advanced development	0603754A
Air Force	technical evaluation system	0603107F
Air Force	joint tactical fusion program	0604321F
Air Force	"Constant Help"	0207137F
Air Force	"Seek Clock"	0207169F
Air Force	special tactical unit detachments	0207248F
Air Force	"Copper Coast"	0207424F
Air Force	tactical improvement program	0207433F
Air Force	"Omega"	0207591F
Air Force	"Have Flag"	0208042F
Air Force	"Centennial"	0305142F
Air Force	"Senior Citizen"	0401316F
	****** Intelligence and communications ******	
Army	special Army program	0301359A
Army	foreign counterintelligence activities	0305127A
Navy	technical reconnaissance & surveillance	0301327N
Navy	communications security (COMSEC)	0303401N
Navy	special activities	0304111N

Air Force	intelligence production activities	0301305F
Air Force	foreign technology division	0301310F
Air Force	infrared/electro-optical/directed energy weapons	0301314F
Air Force	missile & space technical collection	0301315F
Air Force	"Senior Year" operations	0301317F
Air Force	"Forest Green"	0301324F
Air Force	intelligence telecom & defense special security	0301339F
Air Force	NUDET detection system	0301357F
Air Force	communications security (COMSEC)	0303401F
Air Force	special activities	0304111F
Air Force	defense reconnaissance support	0305159F
DOD	cryptologic activities	0301011G
DOD	general defense intelligence	0301301L
DOD	communications security (COMSEC)	0303401G
DOD	defense reconnaissance support	0305159G
DOD	computer security	0305167G
DOD	intelligence planning & review	0305884L
DOD	tactical cryptologic activities	0305885G

Now that I have budget info, I will try and work backwards through the budget to get a ballpark cost for these programs. As can be seen above, the Air Force is the worst offender for hiding their programs, with the Navy only hiding the cost of programs that need to be really secret. Now, I have some material to put together a FOIA request as a taxpayer!!

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